

MAJOR CUBAN EXILE ORGANIZATIONS

The number of Cuban exiles in the United States now approaches 200,000, concentrated mainly in the Miami area. They continue to arrive from Cuba at the rate of about 1,000 a week. In addition, there are about 40,000 to 35,000 exiles in countries other than the U.S., principally in the Western Hemisphere.

Since the beginning of the year, an increasing proportion of the arrivals have been from the lower economic levels of Cuban society. For example, in July 1962, slightly more than half of the arrivals were unskilled workers.

Despite a considerable amount of financial assistance granted them, and attempts to relocate them outside the Miami area, exiles still have uppermost in their minds the desire to return to a free Cuba.

The desire has led to the formation of a large number of exile organizations. Over two hundred anti-Castro organizations are known to have been formed among Cuban exiles. The multiplicity of the exile groups reflects the division and disunity among them. A further complicating factor is the gulf that exists between the groups in exile and anti-Castro elements within Cuba.

Dominating to some extent this confused exile picture is the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC), composed of organizations drawn largely from the center of the political spectrum. Formed in March 1961 to ensure unity before the invasion between the main exile group, Democratic Revolutionary Front (FRD), and the main underground group, Peoples Revolutionary Movement (MRP), the CRC is both anti-Castro and anti-Batista. Its program calls for the establishment of a democratic government in Cuba based on the Constitution of 1940. Most of its members believe that the original objectives of the Revolution were good, but that Castro has betrayed and perverted them. Its Chairman, Jose Miró Cardona, was a prominent and respected lawyer who served for a short time as Prime Minister at the beginning of the Castro regime. He was later appointed ambassador to the United States but never took up his post. He left Cuba in mid-1960. The Council has representatives in most Latin American cities.

Some of the principal exile organizations belonging to the CRC are:

(1) Rescate Democrático Revolucionario: A splinter group of the Auténtico Party (official party of the Grau-San Martín and Prío Socarras administrations) which is headed by Antonio Varona.

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(2) Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria: Organized in Cuba in mid-1959 by defectors from the 26 of July Movement.

(3) Movimiento Democratica Cristiano: Organized in Cuba in the fall of 1959 under the leadership of Jose Ignacio RASCO. The membership is composed principally of young Catholic groups.

(4) Movimiento 30 de Noviembre: A group of liberal labor leaders organized in Cuba in late 1959 by David SALVADOR.

(5) Organizacion Montecristi (known as Montecristi Group)

This is a relatively small group consisting of professionals and businessmen.

(6) Accion Revolucionaria Democratica: A moderately conservative, small organization which is a splinter group of the AAA headed by Dr. Aureliano Sanchez Arango:

(7) Frente Obrero Revolucionario Democratico Cubano (FORDC)  
An exile labor group.

(8) Directorial Magisterial Revolucionario: An organization of exiled Cuban teachers and professors.

(9) Corporaciones Economicas: A group composed of representatives of the many important sectors of production in the former Cuban economy.

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Of the myriad of organizations outside the Council, the more prominent are:

1. Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP). The MRP was organized in late 1959 by Manuel Ray. Its program closely follows the original aims of the 26th of July revolution.

2. Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE): A revolutionary student organization formed in Miami in 1960. It is a direct descendant of the two previous revolutionary directorates that fought against the dictatorship of Machado and Batista. The DRE has representatives in a number of Latin American countries.

3. "Government in Arms in Exile" This group, headed by Dr. Julio Garcera who was formerly a member of the Cuban Supreme Court, maintains on questionable grounds that its leader is the legal successor to the Castro regime. This group is reliably reported to be closely associated with ex-President Pric.

4. Junta Revolucionaria (JURE): A new organization formed by Manuel Ray in September 1962 in Puerto Rico. Although not too much is known about this organization as yet, its program generally follows Ray's views.

There are in addition numerous military organizations - Air Force, ex-Constitutional Army, Navy, Cuban Constitutional Crusade, Cuban Army of Liberation. Even though these are professional organizations claiming to be non-political, they are sought after by the various political leaders.

The remaining groups are usually composed of a very small number of people gathered around an exile personality.